



Outlook

Updated Washing & Reuse Protocol for Fly vials, bottles and flugs

From Saroj Saurya <saroj.saurya@path.ox.ac.uk>

Date Fri 22/08/2025 18:57

To Andreas Prokop <Andreas.Prokop@manchester.ac.uk>; Maggy Fostier <Maggy.Fostier@manchester.ac.uk>

 1 attachment (3 MB)

Washing Protocol for Drosophila Vials and Bottles.docx;

Dear Andreas and Maggy,

I hope this message finds you well.

I have been working on optimising the washing of vials and bottles to reduce manual work and make it possible to hire dedicated support, which will effectively pay for itself through savings on vials, bottles, and flugs. We tested the process with polystyrene vials and found that it works well, so there may no longer be a need to purchase polypropylene vials — the polystyrene vials can be reused reliably. I also checked the fly vials and flugs, and these can continue to be washed and reused as long as they fit the vials and bottles. For food disposal, we now blend the fly food in a blender and pour it down the drain.

At present, we are washing and reusing a wide range of materials, including fly vials, bottles, Petri plates, glass spreaders, wooden toothpicks, DNA columns, 15/50 ml tubes, tip boxes, chemical bottles, gloves, hard-to-recycle plastics, and plastic packaging. Overall, this means we are now washing and reusing around 85% of our plastic, recycling 15%, and sending only about 1% for incineration.

I am enclosing the modified protocol for washing and reusing vials, bottles, and flugs. It would be great if you could try this in your lab as a pilot and let me know how it goes.

Many thanks,
Saroj

Note: This email is not urgent so please reply in your working hours.

[Saroj Saurya \[twitter.com\]](#)

[Raff Lab \[web.path.ox.ac.uk\]](#) and [Green Group \[dunnschoolgreengroup.wixsite.com\]](#)

[Sir William Dunn School of Pathology \[path.ox.ac.uk\]](#)

South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3RE

Volunteer/Member:

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